



# Health4Life Fund

## UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health



### OUR PURPOSE

Supporting low- and middle-income countries to prevent and optimally manage mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety, and non-communicable diseases (NCDs),<sup>1</sup> such as heart attacks and stroke, asthma, diabetes and cervical cancer.

**Enabling countries to forge healthy, happy, prosperous and secure futures.**

### OUR PLAN

A bold and novel approach to development financing, bound by global solidarity and led by the Global South.

### OUR PRINCIPLES

Country-led, catalytic, participatory and inclusive.

<sup>1</sup> The four main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes.

## THE ISSUE

Each year, NCDs take **41 million lives**; this is more than all deaths from HIV/AIDS since the start of that epidemic.

**Over 40% of lives lost are premature<sup>2</sup>** and largely preventable; 86% of these 'early' deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

**Hundreds of millions of people suffer from mental health conditions**, yet their needs remain largely unaddressed, impacting the functioning and well-being of their communities.

**Exposure to risk factors for these conditions begins at a young age** and children are vulnerable to adopting life-long, unhealthy behaviours and diets.

**Nine out of ten people worldwide do not breathe safe air**, a major yet invisible risk factor for NCDs, with low- and middle-income countries the most exposed.

**Poor, vulnerable and marginalized populations are the worst affected** by these conditions, trapping them in poverty and reinforcing inequalities.

## THE PROBLEM

**Decades of underfunding and inattention to NCDs and mental health** due to development assistance often not based on need.

**Fragmented and uncoordinated responses** caused by scarce resources.

**Dominance of Global North decision making** perpetuating a model of dependence.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as deaths between the ages of 30 to 69 years



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*“Leaders must see health and well-being as an investment in sustainable development with very high rates of return.”*

Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator

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The burden of NCDs and mental health conditions damages economies and threatens our collective efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. We can change this by catalyzing country action to scale up proven measures that improve care and reduce risk factors such as tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and air pollution.

**It is time to translate policies into action for visible, measurable results around mental health and NCDs through a robust, global financing partnership that promotes:**

## COUNTRY OWNERSHIP

Through need-driven seed funding and technical support based on country demand.

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## CATALYTIC ACTION

By unlocking domestic resources and driving efficiencies.

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## PARTICIPATORY & INCLUSIVE APPROACHES

Generating coordinated, whole-of-government, whole-of-society action, fully involving affected communities and with the support of 'One-UN'.

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## EQUITY

Centering on the needs of low- and middle-income countries and their most vulnerable populations, while shifting the power dynamics with co-created solutions.

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## LOCAL EXPERTISE

South-South and triangular cooperation will be central to operations to promote and value local knowledge, enhancing learning and exchange across countries.



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*“Health4Life Fund is at the forefront of innovation in inclusive health financing in an evolving global health landscape. UNICEF calls on all Member States, foundations and other development partners to join us in helping Health4Life Fund achieve its immense potential.”*

Catherine Russell,  
UNICEF Executive Director

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## OUR TARGET

The Trust Fund pools resources and invests in low- and middle-income countries to leverage both international and domestic financing and accelerate action to achieve SDG 3.4, a one-third reduction in premature mortality.

## OUR ACTION TOGETHER WILL CONTRIBUTE TO

39 million lives saved

US\$ 2.7 trillion in economic benefits realized

**INVEST TODAY FOR TOMORROW**



*“I call on all development partners to support the Trust Fund, a critical initiative whose time has come.”*

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,  
Director-General, World Health Organization

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### [United Nations Health4Life Fund](#)

Established in 2021 to trigger increased action in low- and middle-income countries to prevent and control NCDs and improve mental health, the Trust Fund will serve as a partnership platform to pool contributions from governments, foundations, public, and relevant private sector entities and ensure that the funds are used effectively and transparently.